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Remarks

Entry of the above-noted amendments, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all claims pending are respectfully requested. By this amendment, claims 1-15, 17-20, and 22 is amended and claims 23-25 are added. These amendments to the claims constitute a bona fide attempt by applicant to advance prosecution of the application and obtain allowance of certain claims, and are in no way meant to acquiesce to the substance of the rejections. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification (e.g., page 4, line 19, to page 6, line 19; and page 13, lines 3-22), figures (e.g., FIGS. 1 and 2), and claims and thus, no new matter has been added. Claims 1-25 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lippelt (U.S. Patent No. 6,937,850). This rejection is respectfully, but most strenuously, traversed.

It is well-settled that there is no anticipation unless (1) all the same elements are (2) found in exactly the same situation and (3) are united in the same way to (4) perform the identical function. Since the Office Action's citations to the applied reference are missing at least one element of each of applicants' independent claims, applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not anticipated by the Office Action's citations to the applied reference, as further discussed below.

For explanatory purposes, applicants discuss herein one or more differences between the Office Action's citations to the applied reference and the claimed invention with reference to one or more parts of the applied reference. This discussion, however, is in no way meant to acquiesce in any characterization that one or more parts of the Office Action's citations to the applied reference correspond to the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action's citations to the applied reference does not teach or suggest one or more elements of the claimed invention. A careful reading of the Office Action's citations to the applied reference fails to teach or suggest, for example, the mobile switching center that connects the prepaid mobile communication device with an intelligent peripheral component to provide a service to the prepaid mobile communication device during the communication session, wherein the mobile switching center receives a service identification associated with the service from the intelligent peripheral component, wherein the mobile switching center generates one or more triggered operations to a prepaid service node to send the service identification to the prepaid service node, as recited in applicants' independent claim 1.

Lippelt discloses (FIGS. 1-2) a charging method for a prepaid communications system ("CS") that includes a subscriber profile database ("SPD"), a prepaid service processing node ("PSPN"), a prepayment support node ("PPSC"), and a mobile station ("MS"). Lippelt describes that for a GSM system, the SPD can be the home location register ("HLR"), the PSPN can be a mobile switching center ("MSC"), and the PPSC can be a prepaid service center. (Col. 8, lines 37-48).

If the PSPN receives a request for a prepaid communications service from the MS via the ML link, the PSPN needs to know whether the prepayment account has enough credit for the payment of the requested service. The PSPN sends via the link CL a credit information request to the PPSC. The PPSC evaluates the request, looks up the balance of the subscriber account, and sends a credit information back to the PSPN. If the credit information indicates that there are funds sufficient to cover the requested service request, then the request for communications is granted. If the account does not have sufficient funds, then the request for communications is denied. (Col. 8, lines 8-21).

After the PSPN detects a communications service termination (e.g., the subscriber has finished the phone call), the PSPN sends termination information to the PPSC in step 483 of FIG. 4. The termination information allows the PPSC to finalize the charging for the service and to perform a billing on the basis of the actually consumed credit.

The Office Action's citation to Lippelt fails to disclose a mobile switching center (e.g., the PSPN) that connects the MS with an intelligent peripheral component to provide a service to the MS. Exemplary illustrations of the types of services provided by an intelligent peripheral would be: directory assistance, weather reports, horoscopes, stock quotes, and the like. The subscriber could connect to an intelligent peripheral component to receive these types of services during a communication session. These services may come at a premium cost that is above the normal airtime usage fees. For example, directory assistance may cost a dollar per use. The Office Action's citations to Lippelt disclose a method to bill for standard telecommunication service. However, the Office Action's citations to Lippelt fail to disclose a method to bill for services provided by intelligent peripheral components.

Simply missing from the Office Action's citation to Lippelt is any mention of the mobile switching center that connects the prepaid mobile communication device with an intelligent peripheral component to provide a service to the prepaid mobile communication device during the communication session, wherein the mobile switching center receives a service identification associated with the service from the intelligent peripheral component, wherein the mobile switching center generates one or more triggered operations to a prepaid service node to send the service identification to the prepaid service node, as recited in applicants' independent claim 1.

So, the Office Action's citation to Lippelt fails to satisfy at least one of the limitations recited in applicants' independent claim 1.

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Furthermore, the Office Action does not allege that the art of record provides any teaching, suggestion, or incentive for modifying the citation to Lippelt to provide the claimed configuration.

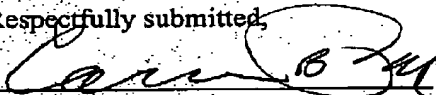
For all the reasons presented above with reference to claim 1, claims 1, 17, and 22 are believed neither anticipated nor obvious over the art of record. The corresponding dependent claims are believed allowable for the same reasons as independent claims 1, 17, and 22, as well as for their own additional characterizations.

Withdrawal of the § 102 rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 17 was amended to correct a typographical error. The first paragraph in the original claim 17 recited: "connecting a prepaid service node with an intelligent peripheral component." However, based on the use of "a prepaid service node" and "the prepaid mobile communication device" in the second paragraph, the first paragraph has been amended to read "connecting a prepaid mobile communication device with an intelligent peripheral component."

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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